

Montana Post * Volume 44, Number 4 * Winter 2006-07

To subscribe to the electronic edition of the *Post*, send an e-mail to mkohl@mt.gov, subject line "subscribe."

Contents

From the Director
Society Awards Funds for Heritage Tourism
Committee Chooses *Gallery of Outstanding Montanans* Inductees
Society Expands School Footlocker Program
History Happenings
Calendar
Hours

From the Director: Listening to Montana: 3,500 Miles and Miles to Go

Richard Sims

My fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Trotter, would write a saying, some elementary wisdom, on the blackboard everyday. I only remember one: "If the Lord meant for us to talk more and listen less, he would have given us two mouths and one ear." That advice has come in handy as I travel the state on our "Montana Conversations" project, which can also be called a listening tour.

We are asking two questions of our fellow Montanans, as we nurture a vision for a new era of service for the Montana Historical Society. First, "How can the Society be more effective in delivering services to your community?" Second, "When you visit the new Montana Historical Society facility in a few years, what do you want to see, do, experience?"

In Baker I heard that we should keep in mind all fifty-six counties when telling Montana history. In Glendive more help would be appreciated taking curation into the modern age. The Wolf Point historical society would like to engage better practices of exhibit design and storytelling. The fine Sidney museum would like to host more traveling exhibits.

In Havre, they want to imagine the best new home for their museum, currently reposing in a mall, and want planning and fundraising consultations. Cut Bank's unique prairie campus could use political help in making their budget stable. The citizens of Lewistown request more hands-on help with historic preservation along their admirable Main Street.

Dillon folks want to visit the Montana Historical Society on-line more efficiently, and access more information, and see links established to access archives in Montana's smaller museums. The arts and heritage leaders in Butte encourage us to think big, and to grow a Society facility that is useful and exciting in many intellectual and aesthetic dimensions.

These are a sampling of the winning ideas we are hearing, and we'll stay on the listening tour through the spring, with two ears to the ground.

Society Awards Funds for Heritage Tourism

Seven Montana Preserve America communities will receive \$54,690 through a re-grant program administered by the Montana Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office. The funds—awarded to communities from Butte to Terry—will support heritage tourism projects that recognize, designate, and protect local cultural resources. This is the second round of funding and these grants bring the total amount awarded to \$90,000.

The Butte Silver Bow Office of Community Development will receive \$15,000 to work with the Montana Preservation Alliance to build a network of heritage trails that encourage visitors to enjoy Southwest Montana's historic and cultural heritage.

The River and Plains Society in Fort Benton plans to use a \$3,100 award to design and produce posters and brochures to assist them to market their unique historic venues.

Lewistown will invest \$5,725 to produce walking tour booklets that market their six historic districts including their widely recognized collection of stone buildings.

Missoula Historic Preservation Office will apply their \$10,440 award to update their website, which features walking tour maps, photos, and facts about the National Register of Historic Places and Missoula's nine historic districts.

Red Lodge–Carbon County Historical Society and Historic Preservation Commission will team up to produce an updated walking tour map with their \$4,890 award.

The community of Terry will use \$10,000 to work with the Economic Development Council to more fully research their cultural and historic resources and begin to market heritage trails that emphasize their landscape and the legacy of photographer Evelyn Cameron.

The Town of Virginia City plans to use their \$5,535 award to improve visitor welcome signage and enhance their heritage tourism marketing efforts.

For more information about the Preserve America program, visit www.preserveamerica.gov or e-mail SHPO Grant Manager Melisa Kaiser Synness at mkaisersynness@mt.gov.



Walking tour brochures of Lewistown—including the buildings on its well-preserved Main Street—will be one product of the Preserve America grant program.

Committee Chooses *Gallery of Outstanding Montanans* Inductees

In November 2006, a five-member selection committee—made up of representatives of the Montana Heritage Commission, Montana State University–Billings, the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West at the University of Montana, the Capitol Restoration Foundation, and the Montana Historical Society—chose ten new inductees into the *Gallery of Outstanding Montanans*, which is located in the west wing of the state capitol. Two of those honorees, Sam Gilluly and Arnold Bolle, will be inducted during the 2007 legislative session.

A native of Billings, Gilluly (1908–1984) was a respected editor, influential advocate for the newspaper profession, and author of a history of the state's newspapers. He served as editor of the *Glasgow Courier* for twenty-eight years and the director of the Montana Historical Society for seven years. Bolle (1912–1994) was a long-time teacher and Dean of the School of Forestry at the University of



Gallery of Outstanding Montanans inductee Sam Gilluly, during his tenure as director of the Montana Historical Society, 1967–1974. MHS Photograph Archives

Montana and an avid conservationist. He played an instrumental role in redirecting national Forest Service policy during the last quarter of the twentieth century.

The remaining eight inductees will be installed in the *Gallery* over the course of the next four legislative sessions. They are A. B. Guthrie, Jr., and Lee Metcalf (2009); Evelyn Cameron and D'Arcy McNickle (2011); Sarah Bickford and Merrill Burlingame (2013); and Dr. Maurice Hileman and Helen Piotopowaka Clarke (2015).

Society Expands School Footlocker Program

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the Montana Historical Society formed a partnership to bring the Society's Indian Education for All educational footlockers to more schools. Through funding received from OPI, the Society created two additional trunks of the existing *Montana Indian Stories Literature Kit* (available strictly between November and March in accordance with Native American storytelling

tradition). They are currently in distribution through the state of Montana while one additional copy of *To Learn a New Way* is in production and slated for use by April 2007. These trunks help realize the goals of the Indian Education for All initiative by bringing literature, social studies, storytelling, and hands-on activities into the classroom.

The Society is also working to digitize the contents of another footlocker: *The Home Fires: Montana in World War II*. A Teaching American History grant, administered by the Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative in partnership with the Montana Historical Society, is funding the project. The main purpose of this pilot program is to facilitate the teaching of Montana history and its connections to US history by providing an easily accessed web-based resource. The Society is working with fifteen early career, small-town teachers and Golden Triangle Curriculum Cooperative staff to create lesson plans for the elementary, middle, and high school levels that incorporate the archival images, documents, and items from the educational footlocker.

History Happenings

Three historic murals created by John W. “Jack” Beauchamp in the 1940s were recently placed back on public display thanks to a joint project of the Montana Historical Society, the City of Helena, and Lewis



The History of Montana—Transportation, by John W. “Jack” Beauchamp, one of three murals now on display at the City/County Administration Building in Helena.

and Clark County. The murals—part of a series collectively titled *The History of Montana*—were commissioned in 1943 by Helenan Kenny Egan for his Mint Cigar Store and Tavern. When the building was demolished twenty years later, the large murals were painstakingly removed from the walls of the saloon. In 1981 they were donated by the Dennis and Vivian Connors family to the Montana Historical Society, where they have been carefully stored ever since. The murals have now been professionally restored and prepared for display with funds provided by the City-County

Administration Building Board, the Society, and the Helena Public Art Commission. The murals can be seen in their new home in the Commission Chambers, Room 330, of the City/County Administration Building in downtown Helena.

What do you think about historic preservation in Montana? The Montana Historical Society’s State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is inviting the public to participate in the development of a new Montana Historic Preservation Plan for 2008-2012. You can begin to help and be heard by answering a brief questionnaire that is posted as both a Word and PDF document on the SHPO website at www.mhs.mt.gov/shpo and returning your comments to SHPO at P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620 or by email to rschliesman@mt.gov. While visiting the SHPO website, you can also check out the current 2003-2007 Montana Historic Preservation Plan under the heading “Survey and Planning.” Your comments are important—please let us know what you think!

The National Endowment for the Humanities approved the Society’s grant application to **bring a paper conservator to the Research Center** from Santa Fe, New Mexico, in March 2007 to assess the conservation needs of the Library’s significant collection of 5,000 historic Montana maps. This is great news; the collection has never been evaluated and hundreds of maps need attention. The map collection is one of the library’s most heavily used collections. The conservator will also consider treatment options for a select number of historical maps held by the University of Montana and Montana State University Special Collections.

The **2007 Biennial Montana Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony** will take place on Wednesday, January 17, 2007, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Myrna Loy Center in Helena. This ceremony honors the owners of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places over the past two years. Also receiving special recognition will be the Bruyer Granary restoration project, the Montana Preservation Alliance (for 20 years of service), the Montana Land Title Association Foundation (for their support of the National Register program), and preservationists Gene Thompson and Jack Fisher.



The Bruyer Granary, in Flathead County, is one of the properties that will be honored at the Biennial Preservation Awards Ceremony.

The MHS Research Center continues to work to make research in its archival collections easier. The finding aids for the **Montana Governor's Papers** (MC35) from 1889 to 1962 and the **Kessler Family Papers** (MC 161) are now both **searchable on-line**. The Montana Governor's Papers collection includes correspondence between the state's chief executives, their constituents, and numerous presidents and other significant political figures from 1900 to 1960. Organized by subject, the collection documents just about every significant political and economic event occurring in Montana from statehood to the 1960s. The Kessler Family Papers thoroughly documents the Kessler family business enterprises from 1865 through the 1950s; the period from 1865 to 1910 is particularly well covered. To explore the archives on-line catalog, visit <http://montanahistoricalsociety.org/research/library/onlinecatalogs.asp>.

The Montana Historical Society will be co-hosting the 2007 David Thompson Bicentennial Conference in Helena, June 15-16, 2007. Titled "**Beyond Borders and Boundaries**," the conference will include a one-day workshop aimed at educators interested in bringing fur trade history into their classrooms. Day two will be a traditional conference format with concurrent sessions discussing a variety of topics related to Indian participation in the fur trade, David Thompson, and the Métis. Speakers will include Jennifer Brown, author of *Strangers in Blood: Fur Trade Families in Indian Country*, and Jack Nisbet, author of *The Mapmaker's Eye: David Thompson on the Columbia Plateau*. Online registration for "Beyond Borders and Boundaries" will be available through the Montana Historical Society website <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/> in February 2007. For more information, contact Rich Aarstad at either raarstad@mt.gov or 406-444-6779.



SHPO staff met with Miles City Historic Preservation Officer Amorette Allison (right) and Mary Hinebaugh, owner of the recently rehabilitated 1914 Shore's building, during their evaluation visit to Miles City.

State Historic Preservation Office staff members Rolene Schliesman and Melisa Kaiser Synness traveled to **Miles City, Billings, and Hardin** in late September. They met with the local historic preservation commission and officers in each community for each group's four-year evaluation, a requirement of the National Park Service. They also met with a citizens group at **Terry**, a designated Preserve America community, to discuss heritage tourism ideas.

Members of the **Friends of the Society** continue to volunteer many hours at the Society. Their contributions ranged from decorating the lobby for Christmas and baking cookies for several special events to preparing the society's Christmas card and annual report mailings. Other long-term volunteer projects include transcribing oral reports, helping maintain the files of the state's National Register properties, and offering tours to school groups. The Friends of the Montana Historical Society are always looking for new members. Particularly needed are volunteers with computer skills and those interested in leading guided tours. For more information about volunteering at the Society, contact Delight Sullivan at 406-444-9553.

The Montana Historical Society's **annual history conference** is moving back to its time slot on the third weekend in October. It will be held in Helena at the Great Northern Hotel, October 18-20, 2007. If you would like to submit a proposal to present a paper, please contact Gena Ashmore at 406-444-1799 to receive the proper form. Stay tuned for details!

The grand opening of the Society's new exhibit, ***Neither Empty nor Unknown: Montana at the***



Historical interpreter Tim Ryan of Polson shows school children a tulle tipi as part of the Society's celebration of American Indian Heritage Day on September 22.

Time of Lewis and Clark, included a reception with music provided by the Old Medicine Singers drum group and two days of educational programming. Members of the Montana Historical Society's Indian Advisory Panel previewed the exhibit, checked for errors, and discussed future possible projects before the exhibit's gala opening on September 21. The panel's assistance proved invaluable in the creation of *Neither Empty nor Unknown* and its final review was vital to the exhibit's success. The following day, 1,100 students and their teachers celebrated American Indian Heritage Day at the Society with activities from rock art-creation to pemmican-making. Free admission to the museum on Saturday and additional children's activities concluded the exhibit's inaugural.

The State Historic Preservation Office received inquiries from over 125 property owners when it announced a one-time only **grant program to support rehabilitation work on rural properties**. Ultimately, three historic Montana barns were chosen to receive \$5,000 each upon completion of their proposed rehab projects: the 1939 log J. G. Myllymaki Barn in Belt, the c. 1880s log and wood-frame Cue Livery Barn in Melrose, and the 1911 wood-frame Nunberg Barn in Wibaux. Work on the various structures will include log replacement, window and door repair, roof repair, and foundation work. Funding for this brick-and-mortar grant program came from vacancy savings and, unfortunately, will not be available every year.



Follow a greenhorn miner deep into the Mountain Con Mine, tap into the history of Butte's breweries, and discover how the Pit might hold the cure for cancer as Butte takes center stage in the winter issue of ***Montana The Magazine of Western History***. Subscriptions and single copies of this special issue are available by calling 1-800-243-9900.

In late August, SHPO Records Manager Damon Murdo and State Archaeologist Stan Wilmoth assisted the BLM in a partnership effort to **locate and document the 1838 Ruby Creek battle site**, where Kit Carson, Jim Bridger, and Osborne Russell attacked a Blackfeet camp. They joined a group of twenty volunteers from the Madison Valley

Historical Association and members of the Blackfeet Community College and Tribal Preservation Office under the general supervision of BLM Archaeologist Mark Sant. Carol Murray (Blackfeet History Director) and Betty Matthews from the Tribal Preservation Office supervised the Blackfeet students as they investigated leads regarding the Blackfeet camp and other features. Over a period of four days metal detectors were used in close order transects by the Madison Valley volunteers in their attempt to find traces of the conflict.

Denise C. King joined the Society as Administrator of the Centralized Services Division, taking the place of Jody Brandt, who left for a position at the Montana Department of Transportation. Denise, who holds a masters degree in Business Administration, brings fifteen years of experience with state government, most recently at the Department of Public Health and Human Services and the Department of Revenue. Other new staff members include Helena native **Tonya Easbey**, who joined the Publications Department as editorial assistant. She replaces Clint Attebery, now pursuing a graduate degree in history at Boston College. **Vanessa Verrill** is not a new face—but she does have new duties. She recently became the Society's membership specialist, replacing Amy Baird, who has started a new career at the State Fund.

The Montana Historical Society designated the week of November 27 **State Employee Appreciation Week**, and the museum was free to all visitors. A well-attended reception for the legislative caucus kicked off the week Monday evening. Legislators and their spouses enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, conversation, and the new exhibit, *Neither Empty nor Unknown*. Special events and giveaways included a gala authors' signing; a program by Dennis Swibold on his new MHS Press book, *Copper Chorus*; free Charlie Russell posters; and drawings for door prizes. To better familiarize our patrons with the Society, programs donated items that included gift certificates as well as goods and services. The week-long event enticed a number of state employees who had never visited the Society to return with their families. The festivities drew over a thousand visitors who toured the museum exhibits and shopped in the museum store, bringing in more than \$12,600 in holiday sales.



Society Director Richard Sims addressing the guests at the Legislative Caucus Open House, November 27, 2006.

Damon Murdo, the cultural records manager for the State Historic Preservation Office, received a Governor's Award for Excellence in Performance on October 4. Damon researches and responds to over 2,000 inquiries each year regarding sensitive archaeological and historical site information, with a turn-around time of less than one day, an unprecedented standard. As a state information specialist, Damon also has an exceptional talent with computers, a talent he generously shares with his coworkers.

The monumental-size bronze bas relief, ***We Proceeded On***, by sculptor Eugene Daub, was installed in the capitol's senate chamber in November. This is the first new mural added to the capitol since 1912. A dedication ceremony for the artwork will be held on January 3, just before the 2007 legislative session begins. The Society continues to raise money to finance this project through sales of replica maquettes and bronze medallions. Only 30 limited-edition bronze replicas are still available for purchase at \$3,500. Approximately 300 limited-edition bronze medallions are available at \$80. Call the Society at 406-444-2694 if you are interested in purchasing a piece of Montana history in the making.



Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, all of the programs are **free, open to the public**, and held at the Montana Historical Society, 225 N. Roberts.

January 2, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.: The Making of We Proceeded On. Artist Eugene Daub will talk about the making of the bronze bas-relief mural that is now in the Montana State Senate Chambers.

January 3, 10:00 a.m.: Dedication Ceremony for We Proceeded On. Join in dedicating the Capitol's most recent art acquisition, the Lewis and Clark bas-relief in the Senate Chambers of the Montana State Capitol.

January 4, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.: The Bridges of Lewis and Clark County. Montana Department of Transportation historian Jon Axline, author of *Conveniences Sorely Needed: Montana's Historic Highway Bridges, 1860-1956*, explains how local historic bridges contribute to our understanding of Montana, from territorial days through the Great Depression to the engineering advances of the 1950s.

January 11, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.: "Bio-prospecting in the Berkeley Pit: The Search for Natural Medicines in a Most Unnatural World." Montana Tech chemists Don and Andrea Stierle have been mining the Berkeley Pit for microbes since 1995, seeking agents that might combat cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Andrea Stierle will talk about their research, which includes discovery of over fifty varieties of bacteria and fungi, one of which shows promise as a migraine preventative.

January 17, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.: The 2007 Biennial Montana Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony, Myrna Loy Center, 15 N. Ewing, Helena. Come celebrate preservation success stories and recognize the hard work of preservationists across Montana.

January 18, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Dirty Old Town: An Addict's View of Butte. Ed Dobb, a contributing editor of *Harper's Magazine*, fourth-generation Butte native, and author of the forthcoming book *Butte, America*, will speak about the feature-length documentary he and filmmaker Pam Roberts are creating on the mining city.

January 25, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.: Pages in History Book Forum: Copper Chorus: Mining, Politics, and the Montana Press, 1889-1959, by Dennis L. Swibold. Montana Historical Society publications director Molly Holz will lead a discussion on the Montana Historical Society Press's new book, which examines the Anaconda Copper Mining Company's control over Montana's newspapers.



February 1, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.: Documenting the African American Experience in the Montana Mosaic. Historians Alan Thompson and Patty Dean will present some of the exciting history they have uncovered as they have worked to develop a searchable database of all of the materials relating to African Americans within the Montana Historical Society's collections.

February 8, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.: Gallery Tour, Treasure-State Treasures. Join guide Deb Mitchell on a tour of *Treasure State Treasures*, an exhibit that showcases a broad cross-section of the extraordinary materials that the Society has assembled throughout its 140-year history. This will be among the last opportunities to tour the exhibit, which closes in March.

February 15, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.: "Montana's Governors Face the Great Depression." Archivist Jeff Malcomson will look at how Montana's heads of state met the challenges of the 1930s, from drought and economic depression to earthquakes and explore how typical Montanans expressed their experiences of the period through the letters they wrote to Montana's Depression-era governors.

*February 22, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **Pages in History Book Forum: Montana Mining Ghost Towns** by Barbara Fifer. Author Barb Fifer will join bookstore manager Richard Boyd for a look at her book on Montana ghost towns.*

Conferences and Workshops

March 8-10, 2007: Museums Association of Montana annual conference, Missoula. Check www.montanamuseums.org for conference updates or call 406-443-6563 for information.

*June 15-16, 2007: **Beyond Borders and Boundaries**, a David Thompson Bicentennial Conference, Helena. Contact Richard Aarstad at raarstad@mt.gov, 406-444-6779 for information.*

*October 18-20, 2007: **Thirty-fourth annual Montana History Conference**, Helena. If you would like to submit a proposal to present a paper, please contact Gena Ashmore at 406-444-1799*

Hours

Montana's Museum

Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m.

Closed holidays. \$5.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student (5-12), \$12.00 per family.

Museum Store

Mondays-Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m.

Closed holidays. No admission fee.

Research Center

Library and Archives: Tuesdays-Fridays, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holiday weekends. No admission fee.

Photograph Archives: Tuesdays-Fridays, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed weekends, Mondays, and holidays. No admission fee.

Capitol Guided Tours

Oct. 1 through Jan 3: Saturdays only, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; last tour begins at 1:00 p.m.

Jan 3-Sept 30- Monday-Saturday- 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: last tour begins at 2:00 p.m.

Closed holidays. Self-guided tour brochures available upon request at the security desk on the first floor. Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.

Original Governor's Mansion

Oct. 1 through April 30: Saturdays only, 12:00-4:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour; last tour begins at 3:00 p.m.

May 1 through Sept. 30: Tuesdays-Saturdays, 12:00-4:00 p.m. Tours begin on the hour; last tour begins at 3:00 p.m.

Closed holidays. \$4 per adult, \$1 per student (5-12), \$10 per family. Groups call 406-444-4789 for reservations.